

and an increase in the income tax and sales tax in order to get a small reduction in property tax which, and I'm sure in some cases, there will not be any reduction according to the figures that we received in the last couple days. LB 346 is a very important bill to the parents of 34,000 students and I will not support LB 1059 in any case unless LB 346 is attached to it and I will allow some of my time now to Senator Schmit.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Schmit.

**SENATOR SCHMIT:** Mr. President and members, Senator Labeledz brings to the discussion another very valid point of view. Most of my children attended public schools. Several of them attended private schools. I've always supported both public and private schools. I shall continue to do so. As Senator Labeledz points out that there are many persons who support both and do so at a substantial sacrifice. Senator Scotty Moore spoke about how my arguments were in support of LB 1059. I would just like to say this, that so long as you have a system which is based upon property, and that is what this is, then at least you ought to make it honest enough to base it upon all property, not just selective parts of property. There are those individuals who will argue that this is the only way it can be done. Let me tell you, I can clear this floor off very rapidly if I were to call the roll of those individuals on this floor and ask each in turn what their financial support of the school system would be. I can guarantee you that without exception, without exception you will find the average cost for rural taxpayer greater than the urban taxpayer. I'll find also, I think, that in this instance we have a particular problem. The City of Omaha has a high percentage of private schools and those individuals who live in that city pay a substantial amount of contribution toward that school, for the private school systems, yet they continue to support the public school system through their tax dollars, through the tax system based upon principally upon property, and I would have to add that most of those persons who do that do not have a substantial investment in stocks and bonds and CDs. Their investments are in the family, their investments are in the home, possibly a small business. But by the support of those private schools they substantially reduce the burden of the public school system. I believe the town of Bellwood does real well, the Class I district in Bellwood does real well according to 1059, partially because a high percentage of students from Bellwood go to the private school and if those students were in attendance at the public school it would be